

THE REMNANTS OF ASHANTI TAFO'S GLORIES
IN POTTERY

The once very famous pottery of Ashanti Tafo has unfortunately declined. Indeed, it has literally almost disappeared altogether.

We are told that Akosua Baa, the daughter of Queen-mother Ama Serwa Sarabi, was taken away to the British Empire Exhibition to demonstrate her dexterity at pottery¹. The Queen-mother's family, of course, was a very outstanding pot making group.

There has always been a set of dishes made in the Queen-mother's house, which royal lineages borrowed (as a sort of "dinner set") for their great feasts (Aduane kese e). They are no longer used for this purpose and have been carefully stacked away on the ceiling of a kitchen when we asked for them. The first set of pots in line drawings, are the remnants of the "dinner set" type of pots. The second set marked II are other very specialised pots which were made in the past but now made only on order and by not more than five people in Tafo.

NOTE

We have been able to acquire these pots and would like to place on record the word put in for us by Mr. A.C. Denteh and his wife Princess Afua Denteh of Tafo. (The pots are in the Ethnographic Museum of the Institute of African Studies, Legon).

1. Rattray, R.S.: Religion and Art in Ashanti, 1927 p.306.